

ABOLISH WAR

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This issue is later than usual because we wanted to cover the
Peace History Conference.

Trident: the vigil and the vote

See pages 6 and 7



Looking forward to this year's Remembrance Weekend



On November 10th, we hope the speaker at our AGM will be **Craig Murray**. As Ambassador to Uzbekistan, he made public the human rights abuses there.

On Sunday November 11th, the MAW Lecture at the Imperial War Museum will be given by **Helena Kennedy QC**, the well known advocate and social reformer.



What about local events? Why not arrange a debate about the question of Remembrance as they did in Penzance (Issue 7)? If you want to arrange an event and need help/ideas, then get in touch with us. Also the MAW booklet *Remembrance for Today* will be available from July

WANTED!

If you have contacts with the military, publishing or media, would you be prepared to be an active member of our Committee? We are also looking for someone with experience in photography to cover MAW events.

The MAW Conference

In April, MAW held its most ambitious event to date. This two-day conference entitled '**Peace history: encouragement and warnings**' was organised in collaboration with the International Peace Bureau (Geneva) (IPB) and held at the Imperial War Museum, which provided much welcome assistance for the event.

It was a truly international conference with speakers and delegates from many countries. Some 150 delegates attended over the two days and it was particularly good to see university students among them.

Four exhibitions were displayed around the walls of the Imperial War Museum's cinema where the lectures took place. Three were travelling exhibitions from the Peace Museum (Bradford): 'Vision shared' which sets out the history of the British peace movement in posters; the 'Nobel exhibition' which explains the history of the prize and case studies of some of its recipients; and an exhibition telling the story of women peacemakers. The fourth exhibition was produced by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and brought to the conference by Janis Alton from Toronto. This too was about women peacemakers - in this case specifically from Canada - so the feminine contribution to peace was well recognised at the conference!

The Peace Museum also displayed a time line chart of peace history. Delegates were invited to add or amend items on this.

Sir Robert Crawford, Director General of the Imperial War Museum opened the conference. He said how appropriate it was that such an event was being held at a war museum. He also said that he was very pleased that MAW holds its annual Remembrance Day lecture at the Imperial War Museum. Bruce Kent explained the business of the two days, welcoming the delegates and encouraging them to make the most of the wonderful event.



Three of the talks on the first day focussed on individual peacemakers. Peter van den Dungen, University of Bradford spoke on 'Bertha von Suttner, the woman behind the Nobel Peace Prize'.

Continued on page 2

The Movement for the Abolition of War

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Peace History Conference cont.

Bertha wrote the influential novel, 'Lay down your arms' (published 1898) which depicted war and included ideas of arbitration and international law. She carried on a long correspondence with Nobel and was instrumental in persuading him to inaugurate the Peace Prize.

This was followed by Verdiana Grossi, University of Geneva on 'Hodgson Pratt and the practice of co-operation'. Hodgson Pratt was an energetic and inspired figure in the early European peace movement. In 1880 he founded the International Arbitration and Peace Association and also worked for IPB which was set up in 1891. Then, Shireen Shah, Peace Museum (Bradford) discussed 'the life and work of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the 'Frontier Gandhi'. Influenced by Gandhi's teaching, Ghaffar raised a Pathan army of disciplined but unarmed soldiers – rooted in Islam and satyagraha – that carried walking sticks.



Martin Bell speaking at the Reception

Joseph Fahey, Manhattan College, New York spoke on Civilian resistance to US entry to the First World War. He described the work of the various groups involved, the socialists, pacifists, feminists, civil liberty campaigners, intellectuals, anarchists and some politicians.

After a speaker's panel discussion chaired by Tony Kempster, singer-songwriter Sue Gilmurray performed a song entitled 'Vera' (about the life of Vera Brittain) which had been written for MAW's 2006 Remembrance Day lecture given by Vera's daughter, Baroness Shirley Williams.

The second day was concerned mainly with talks about organisations and peace initiatives. Terry Charman, historian with the Imperial War Museum spoke on The League of Nations and the Briand-Kellogg Pact. He listed the League's achievements and explained the reasons for its failure during the 1930s. Kate Hudson, London South Bank University covered the World Government Movement 1945-1950 which

introduced many innovative ideas for international peacemaking but was eventually swamped by events like the Cold War and the establishment of the European Union.

And Guido Grunewald, German Section, War Resisters' International reviewed the history of conscientious objection from its roots in early Christian culture through the wars of the 19th century to WW1 and 2. He presented a particularly interesting view of how governments tried to discourage COs.

Finally, Clive Barrett, Leeds Metropolitan University and the Peace Museum (Bradford) gave a tour de force on 'the history of art working for peace', covering statues, fine-art paintings, cartoons, campaign posters and banners. There clearly is a huge diversity in such work and much here to inspire future peacemakers.

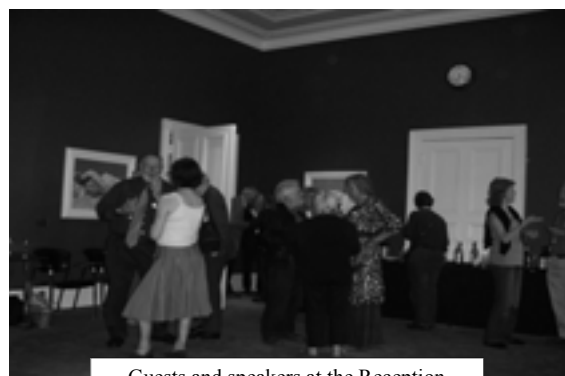
After an evaluation of the conference chaired by Colin Archer, General Secretary of IPB, a film entitled 'A Force More Powerful' about Danish Resistance to the Nazi occupation, was shown. This exemplifies the effectiveness of non-violent resistance when organised on a large scale by a committed population.

A reception was held on the second evening at which Martin Bell, a vice-president of MAW gave some personal reflections on war and the crucial task of preventing future wars if humanity is to survive this century. Martin was his usual stimulating self drawing widely on his experience as a war correspondent.

Music at the reception was provided by Sue Gilmurray and Tony Kempster with a little impromptu help from Joseph Fahey from the US.

Tony Kempster

Please note: MAW is collecting together the texts of the talks given and those available will be put on the website in due course. Please visit www.abolishwar.org.uk or contact us if you would like copies of any of them.



Guests and speakers at the Reception

PEACE HISTORY CONFERENCE THANK YOU'S

This is by no means a complete list, but I do want, on behalf of the organisers, to say thank you to some of those without whose help the Peace History conference would not have happened or would not have run as smoothly as it did.

Financially it would not have been possible but for generous grants from the Clun Charitable Trust, the Christian Peace Education Fund and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Nor would it have been possible but for the generosity and help of the Imperial War Museum which provided the facilities and much else in terms of good will and staff time. A special thank you to Susannah Behr, of the IWM's events section, who looked after us with great attention, efficiency and concern at all times.

Our two registrars, Calum King and Joseph Sirett, did a great job on the desk and kept all registrations in perfect order. No one had to pay twice! Since over a hundred people came on both conference days there was a major job to be done.

Our eight excellent speakers not only gave us fascinating insights into past peace history but did it generously for free. Two of our speakers were given accommodation and hospitality in London for the time of the conference by Fleur and Colin Brennan, and Austin and Lala Winkley, which was much appreciated. Doug and Janis Alton, of the International Peace Bureau, brought a wonderful exhibition from Canada to join those which were provided by the Bradford Peace Museum.

A last thank you to *History Today* which gave advance publicity to the conference.

It was all a great success. When do we do it again?

Bruce Kent

Letter from the Chair

The peace history conference, organised with the International Peace Bureau and Imperial War Museum, was our most important event to date (see pages 1 and 2). As I listened to the stories of early peace activists, I reflected on their attitudes to the times in which they lived. What would they make of our world today with its many threats and in particular the fear that our time is fast running out? Life has always been fraught with risks, but a century ago the future spread before them seemingly without horizon while now we cannot be sure that humanity will survive for another hundred years.

These were exceptional people with a strong work ethic and a thirst for knowledge and I suspect they would have remained optimistic and even more committed to their work for peace – and in a very practical way (because this is why we remember them).

This year's Reith Lectures given by the economist, Jeffrey Sachs emphasise the importance of remaining optimistic and acting realistically. The lectures are entitled 'Bursting at the seams' and in the first one he set the scene by describing an over-populated world on the brink of devastating change.

Sachs began not a century ago but by quoting a speech by John Kennedy made 45 years ago in the immediate wake of the Cuban missile crisis. Kennedy said, 'We must examine our attitude towards peace itself. Too many of us think it is impossible, too many think it is unreal, but that is a dangerous defeatist belief. It leads to the conclusion that war is inevitable, that mankind is doomed, that we are gripped by forces that we cannot control'. He then went on to talk about practicalities for an attainable peace, based not on a sudden revolution in human nature but an evolution in human institutions, on a series of concrete actions and effective agreements which are in the interest of peace – a process surely well understood by those whose lives our conference speakers related.

Sachs picks up this theme for the big problems we face today – climate change, alleviation of hunger, water stress, war – arguing that we must stop translating these in the shadow of ignorance into 'us versus them' problems (which lead to conflict); and sets out some practical solutions. In the questions session that fol-

lowed, several people argued that he was being unrealistic and overly optimistic but he stuck to his guns. It has been a disappointing time. The death toll in Iraq and Afghanistan continues to grow without any end in sight and the world seems unable to deal effectively with many other problems including the Darfur genocide. And, despite the general acceptance that global warming has become the most over-riding threat, the massive international effort needed to deal with it is not developing fast enough to prevent at least a 2° C increase in temperature which will leave billions short of water by 2050. Clearly, as Sachs says, the debate now has to be focused on action.

Then we have the outcome of the Trident vote on 14th March. Although many Labour MPs voted against the motion and there were some abstentions, the House supported the Government's decision to take the steps necessary to maintain the UK strategic deterrent beyond the life of the existing system (with some unspecified steps to be taken towards disarmament). Nevertheless, it was good to hear a succession of MPs assure the crowd of protesters outside Parliament on vote day that the fight to rid Britain of nuclear weapons was only just getting started. Political and campaign leaders vowed to intensify political pressure in Scotland, at the nuclear facilities at Faslane and Aldermaston, and in international and regional fora and meetings. The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review of the the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons began at the UN in Vienna last week and Bruce Kent and myself were there at different times to support the NGO campaigns around this. I was involved in two meetings, one under the auspice of the International Peace Bureau and the other organised by the World Court Coalition to seek an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice on compliance with the treaty.

So, in this dark time there is much to do, and you will see from our newsletter that we are very busy. But we need more support and are looking particularly for new people with time and/or skills to join our executive committee. If you feel you can help, please call us or, at least, come along to our AGM on 11th November. And thanks to all those who are already involved.

Tony Kempster

Veterans' Reminiscences

Martin Bell deplors that the last of the old soldiers is fading away. As a result, people know too little of the horrors of war. As one who is not quite fading away, I would suggest that part of the problem is that we veterans have never done that job properly.

I went to Cambridge University in January 1946, fresh from the RAF. I joined a small bunch of veterans and we considered ourselves a little superior to the other students just out of school. In retrospect I realise our knowledge of each other's war experiences was minimal. As a Coastal Command pilot mostly looking for the Japanese fleet in endless empty ocean I had little to talk about (I was lucky not to find them: the crew that did lasted only long enough to get a radio message off). But others had much more to say. Ron was doubly decorated in the Pathfinder Force, but he never talked about it. Jack, also doubly decorated, had shot down three Junkers 88's in 50 minutes, but the first I heard about it was at his funeral 60 years later. Another Jack had escaped from POW camps three times, but I did not learn about it until years later. There was a man with no legs: we always called him Peg-legs, and I remember calling 'Come on, Peg-legs' as we were going to the pub, but I never knew how he lost them. John, a former Japanese POW, lined the shelves in his room with leather-bound books which I believe he did not read, but never talked about his experiences. There were several others like that and of course the one exception: Robbie who talked endlessly in RAF

slang, never ceased to tell us about his crew and was regarded as a bore.

Why this reticence? Shooting a line was a heinous social blunder in the RAF, but was that all? I think survivor's guilt played a large part, and for some regret at having killed. And we all wanted to leave the war behind and get on with ordinary life.

It was the same in ex-Services CND. The media focused on the long hair and torn jeans of CND members, and we tried to take the hippie image out of the marches by going along with our suits, ties, medals and our own banner. But a small group in Cambridge used to meet in the evenings and what did we talk about?—The fun things, evading the military police, comradeship and all that.

It was the same again in my father's generation. He was a medic on Gallipoli and through the Allenby campaign. When I asked him for a story about the war it was always something slightly humorous. The nearest to the real thing was one about the difficulty of going to the latrines on Gallipoli because a Turkish sniper had the path covered. His diary was full of descriptions of the insects and flowers, with an occasional note of the number of casualties through his advanced dressing station.

That is why the Museum of Hiroshima, and others like it, which set out to show how dreadful war is, are so important. Unfortunately, Blair has not been there.

Robert Hinde (MAW President)

Should We Feel Sorry for Soldiers?

MAW's aim is to try to end the waging of war; that aim is helped by highlighting *all* the damage of war, not selected bits. We cannot (yet) rid human nature of its violent side but we can try to get rid of a major manifestation of that tendency to violence. We need to make room for all and any arguments against war.

When campaigning, I often cite the physical and mental damage done to our own forces. I want to show that war damages everybody and everything that it touches. This approach helps to engage the interest of those who have military connections and sympathies. But – I get challenged, quite rightly, by those who campaign on the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq, the horrendous killing and wounding of innocent civilians there. How can I justify demanding proper medical and psychiatric care for our troops when they have helped to destroy the medical facilities in Iraq? So what if soldiers have to share wards with civilians, when Iraqis have no medicines, no medical equipment, no beds, and the doctors are fleeing the country? How can I justify saying our soldiers also should be regarded as victims? Haven't they been responsible for the killing, for the abuse and at times murder of the citizens of an occupied state? Haven't our cluster bombs and depleted uranium shells left a legacy of quick and slow death, a legacy that will go on killing long after our troops have left? Does it matter if they come back damaged? Serve them right, say some. But it *does* matter.

It matters because that damage brings back violence not just to military families and friends, but to our society as a whole. It matters because the damage perpetuates the violence of war. It perpetuates the notion that one can solve conflict with conflict. It perpetuates governmental thinking that people are cannon fodder, not individuals; that soldiers are willing sacrifices, there to be spent in the 'interests' of the country. It clouds the duty of care that government has to *all* the citizens.

Here is what Lynda Holmes of Military Families Against War says:

In November 06 I went to the High Court in London when MFAW tried, and failed, to bring a case against the government, asking for a Public Inquiry which was so shoddily refused in Westminster. On the day I attended the hearing Tony Blair's QC was speaking and he stated, in so many words that: 'Should the government here send a soldier to fight abroad and that soldier is killed by either lack of or faulty equipment then the government has no redress as the soldier was killed outside UK jurisdiction.' I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Who sent the soldiers to war and where is their duty of care?

When the PM announced troops were to be coming home shortly I'm afraid I took this with 'a pinch of salt'. I know of 2 families whose sons have already been told their regiments are to be sent to Iraq in the winter of 2008. I also know that troops are expected to stay there to support and train the Iraqi police for another 10 years. My son's company, when going to Afghanistan, will have completed 3 tours of duty in 2 years. Is there not supposed to be a 2 year gap between each tour of duty?

What about all those personnel who have committed suicide since returning home? What of all those troops who have gone AWOL because they can't stand the catastrophic events that are still taking place? What of all those like James Petriowski, suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome, who have been told they have a personality disorder, are not mentally ill but are imprisoned instead of receiving help? What of those like Malcolm Kendall-Smith, imprisoned for refusing to take part in what they believe is an illegal war?

When you think of how our troops are living at present in Basra

I cannot conceive them fulfilling their roles as expected by our beloved PM. Many are sleeping in protective armour. They are having bottles and bricks thrown at them by children whilst on patrol. If they never know whether a civilian is a friend or foe what sort of an atmosphere are they having to survive in?

(Lynda's son has served in Iraq and is currently in Afghanistan.)

In *Hidden Wounds* (see Abolish War No: 6) Aly Renwick writes: '*Comparisons of conventional wars with other conflicts – say the Normandy landings with Vietnam or Northern Ireland – shows that the scale and intensity of fighting is undoubtedly greater in the former. But other factors made soldiers serving tours of duty in Northern Ireland or Vietnam particularly prone to psychiatric disorders, especially after leaving the services.... Like the GIs in Vietnam, British soldiers occupying nationalist areas in Northern Ireland often had difficulty in even deciding who the enemy was.... The basic distinction between good and bad - ours and theirs - is missing in a conflict when they cannot be reliably separated from a larger group - the innocent.*' In these circumstances soldiers have doubts about their actual role in the conflict.

What level of damage is and will be coming back from the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan? Most soldiers will have experienced far greater violence and fighting than they did in Northern Ireland. Most will have seen sights that no one should see, and perhaps have done things that no one should do. And most of them will have doubts about the legality of the invasion of Iraq and their continued presence there. They will be haunted by that much larger group – the innocent. What is this nation doing about ameliorating the damage that is being imported back into our society? Are we prepared for the increase in homelessness, alcoholism, violence in our land – the result of our irresponsible military adventures in the Middle East? What about the government's 'duty of care'?

BROKEN SOLDIERS



Most of those of us who are anti-war are, understandably, anti-military, too. In my time as a soldier, for two years as a reluctant infantryman, I was certainly anti-military; and I did not enjoy the attentions of my platoon sergeant, the RSM and all the other ranks up to the Commanding Officer. I am sure that they took an equally dim view of me.

I think it is time for those of us who campaign for peace to revise our attitudes.

With hindsight unclouded by nostalgia, I can see that my experience of soldiering was the best education I ever had. And, more importantly, the peace movement has potentially powerful allies in the military. Who better to make the case for peace than those who have seen and lived through the alternative?

There were many old soldiers in that memorable demonstration against the war in Iraq in February 2003. I doubt if there ever was a peace march with so many war veterans in it. These were absolutely not the "usual suspects". And when last year I made a documentary for Channel Four about the futility of war, one of the principal witnesses was General Sir Michael Rose, formerly the British Army's Adjutant General, who called for the impeachment of the Prime Minister for sending the armed forces to war on the basis of a falsehood.

This year I made another programme for the same channel about

the Military Covenant, the written agreement between the nation and its Army (and by extension the Navy and the RAF too). The soldiers agree to forgo certain rights and make certain sacrifices – including if necessary the ultimate sacrifice – and the nation undertakes to treat them well and fairly for all their days.

But with the troops over-committed in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the periods between deployments there reduced to 18 months or less, and with military hospitals no longer available to treat the wounded, the Military Covenant is as shot through of holes as an old regimental colour. I am part of a campaign to have it revived and written into law. The Americans have their GI Bill. We need a British equivalent.

Why should peace people care? First, because the soldiers are our neighbours and fellow-citizens. It was not their fault that they were mobilised to fight an illegal war in Iraq; or that they are still there, a targeted and unpopular army of occupation, nine troop rotations later. I was in Basra last December. A senior officer, on his third tour of duty there, said that he knew what it must have felt like to be a German soldier in occupied France in 1942. These men are important witnesses to the government's disastrous decision to go to war in the Americans' slipstream.

Second, this debacle has created something quite extraordinary in a country with a centuries old history of expeditionary warfare: the emergence of a group of the families of the fallen as an active political force. Whenever a video history of the Blair years is produced, a place will be found in it for the extraordinary speech by Reg Keys, a bereaved father, at the election count in Sedgefield in 2005. It was the most moving example I have ever seen of a man speaking truth to power.

The third reason why we should care about our soldiers is that they aren't used only in war-fighting – indeed we have to believe that future governments will learn from present disasters and abandon the idea of war as a policy option. Our troops have a proud record of peace-keepers. I have seen them risk their own lives to save the lives of others, in Bosnia and elsewhere. They deserve to be prudently deployed and properly rewarded. The duty of care requires it.

And I think it useful for the peace movement to be aware of the plight of those who have served and been wounded, especially in the mind. Combat Stress, the services' mental health society, has 8,000 men on its books suffering from PTSD, post traumatic stress disorder as a result of their military service. A further 1,000 are now seeking help, including some from present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know of no more powerful arguments for peace than the condition of these men, which in most cases is treatable but not curable.

I do not wish to see an end to Trooping the Colour. I do wish to see an end to the blighting of young lives.

I would not hold even a nominal position in the Movement for the Abolition of War if I believed that the abolition of war was a pipe dream. It is a worthwhile objective to be worked for step by step. I see encouraging signs. We have for the first time a Chief of the General Staff willing to speak out on behalf of his soldiers. We have a government – the same government that took us to war illegally in Iraq – now changing its policies on cluster bombs and the arms trade. We have a Parliament chastened by recent experiences and (I believe) more responsive to the will of the people.

In 1593, in the reign of Elizabeth I, Parliament passed an act for the relief and reward of disabled soldiers, 'So they may reap the fruit of their good deservings'. It is time, I believe, to bring it up to date.

MARTIN BELL - MAW Vice-president

(The Channel Four programme *Britain's Throwaway Soldiers*, was shown on 30th March.)



MAW's other Vice-president, Susannah York, has also been involved in the duty of care issue. The Independent on Sunday asked her to be a signatory of a letter being sent to Tony Blair about it. She had some input into the text, and with Sue Smith (whose son Philip died in Iraq in 2005) and others, delivered the letter to No. 10 at the end of March. Does duty of care matter? Of course it does. How many times have I heard 'Well,

they signed up to kill, didn't they?' Did they? Why do young people sign up?

A lot come from a family background of military service and almost automatically follow Dad or Uncle Tom. For them there is no real decision to be made – they are opting for the familiar. Also of course they will think that their background may help in things like promotion. Some sign up because they *have* no family and the forces will act as one for them. Many make the choice between unemployment and a job.

Let down by society, poorly educated and prepared for life, the army looks a pretty good bet. Did I say 'poorly educated'? Did you know that the Army won't take you if your reading and writing skills are below that expected of a 7 year-old? '*It is a fact of life that up to half of the British Army's soldier recruits enter training with literacy or numeracy skills at levels at or below those expected of a primary school leaver.*' - Basic Skills Agency

Of course there will be some who are gung-ho, who are thoughtlessly mad about weapons, who've had a background and diet of violence. But there will be many more who take the Armed Forces' promotion of itself at face value and believe they will be doing a job worth doing (and so it is when it means genuine peace keeping). Don't condemn them for that. How good was *your* moral judgment at 17? And for many young people joining up means the chance of receiving training and skills that will serve them well on civvy street – that's what's advertised. How misleading that can be.

Thinking of Joining Up? Under 18?

These are the rules when you join the Army:

You are not allowed to leave during the first month of service. You may give 14 days' notice and leave only between the second and sixth month of service.

If you do not leave then, you must remain in the army full time until you are 22 years old (QR 9.073).

You cannot buy yourself out (QR 9.416).

You cannot obtain a discharge before you are 22 (QR 9.073).

You must remain in the reserves for another 6 years (QR 9.478).

You may not be free to leave, even when you are over 22, if you go on an education or training course (QR 9086b).

(This comes from a leaflet distributed by At Ease, an independent advice service for members of the Armed Forces, including Reservists, and their families. See www.atease.org.uk.)

All the training given until you are 22 is purely military. No education or training for skills that would be useful outside the Armed Forces is provided by the MoD *until* you are 22. And by that time, given that so many youngsters are being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, the damage has been done.

Here's some more information from At Ease – *The Ministry of Defence invariably fails to inform members of the Armed Forces of their legal right to object to war, either before or after posting them to their new stations.* Lynda Holmes mentioned Malcolm Kendall-Smith, imprisoned for trying to exercise that legal right.

Should we be sorry for soldiers? I think so. Indeed, I think we should make them part of our campaign to abolish war.

Lesley Docksey

TRIDENT - THE CAMPAIGN GOES ON

The No Trident - Troops Out Now

demo in London on 24th February attracted a lot of support - perhaps a little less than the organisers claimed, but a great many more than the police's original estimate of 5000 (at least this many were demonstrating against Trident in Glasgow on the same day). This was revised later, when it was pointed out that all of the 10,000 official placards had been used. For some of us it was also a bit divisive. Before the event I found many people voicing their unease at combining two issues like this. They could have been positively linked but somehow this didn't happen, and on the day people's placards and banners featured one issue or the other, not both. Very muddling. And sometimes I wonder - if we march too often do we lessen our effect? What do you think?



Demonstrators in Trafalgar Square

No Trident Renewal Says Kendal

Well, that's what the large banner said displayed across two posts at what is popularly known as 'the birdcage' by Kendalians, a meeting place in the centre of Kendal's market place.

An itinerant musician had settled down to play when Bruce Kent and supporters arrived. The Peace Group had booked the venue which gave an opportunity to put into practice what they preach - 'negotiation instead of confrontation'. It all worked out beautifully because the musician agreed to join in. He played guitar and mouth organ very well.

The day was damp and cold but that did not stop the group from pressing on. Bruce had a loud hailer and for the next two hours he delivered our message between musical interludes. The passers by were of several types and appeared to fall into three groups:

Firstly, came those who agreed with our message.

Secondly came the 'walkers on', people who were either too busy, too damp, or just set on avoiding or spurning us.

Thirdly came the persuadable people who either took a leaflet, sometimes with a smile, or who asked a question. This group did not necessarily agree with our message but were prepared to discuss it. Questions were sometimes simple and just needed a direct answer. Those who were clearly left of centre were often prepared to put their case and leave it there. Some people were prepared to argue and use up our time without moving their position. Some were prepared to leave it to the Government 'who know what is happening and control things'.

Kendal is just a car ride away from Barrow in Furness where the submarines are made. It had been expected that some Barrow workers would be present to engage Bruce in dialogue. The poor

weather prevented them coming. Our answer would not have been easy in the street. Barrow employs 3-4000 workers, most of the highly skilled work force in the North of England. This body of skill and knowledge could be put to peaceful projects which would enhance the economy over the North and provide more jobs for new industry. It is also on the cards that production of the submarines might well be taken to USA.

One statement was common. 'We need Trident to defend ourselves'.

The answer to that with its horrific logic is that Trident is a first strike weapon. Its use would result in our destruction.

The day was not without its humour. One person suggested that we should pretend to have the weapon. That would save taxpayer's money! And another woman asked me 'Is that who I think it is?' pointing to Bruce.

Derek Longmire



Bruce & loud hailer in Kendal

Clergy Against Nuclear Arms (CANA) at Faslane in March

CANA's visit to Faslane was featured on BBC's Politics Show, who were looking at the Trident issue prior to the vote in Parliament. Times have changed. One of CANA's information sheets back in the 80's pictured a cartoon of a bishop blessing a nuclear sub. These days we find a bishop, in this instance Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Reading, conducting an open-air service in front of the North Gate. As he said in his Faslane sermon, "Nuclear weapons are an affront to God. Therefore, I am happy to join you in making a little trouble for peace".



The Bishop of Reading leading Eucharist at Faslane

Musicians Against Nuclear Arms Concert for Peace

Sir Thomas Allen accompanied by Roger Vignoles.

Wednesday 20 June

St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1.

Contact: MANA
71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU.
www.mana.org.uk

14th March - Trident Vote Day

A day of activities to protest against the government's plans to replace Trident included illegal leafleting outside the Commons, stilt-walkers whipping a flock of human sheep, and a 'Block the Builders' blockade. This was followed by an hour's silent prayer vigil by all faiths in Parliament Square. There were also meetings of Labour rebels - 95 voted against the government.

As dusk settled over the square there was also a rally organised by CND at which several MPs spoke, some coming out of the debate, along with trade union leaders, media figures and activists including Bruce Kent.

We were all disheartened, dismayed, and frankly unsurprised when Parliament voted for Trident - or rather voted for the replacement of the submarines that carry the missiles. But this isn't the end of the debate, or the end of our campaigning. Bruce looks at it from the MAW perspective.

TRIDENT AND MAW

Should The Movement for the Abolition of War get into specifics like the renewal of Trident or is that better left to CND and similar groups?

CND will of course be going full steam ahead with a campaign involving as many as possible in the struggle to get the decision of Parliament reversed. A major focus will be on the 2010 review conference of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. There is already much hope coming down from the new Scottish Parliament.

Every 'charity' appealing for funds from the public ought to be asked where they stand on the billions to be spent on Trident renewal. To be silent is to give consent.

But there are deeper mental fixations for MAW to address. One is the century's old, and entirely out of date assumption, that more weapons mean more security. That is NOT true. Many have yet to learn that today more weapons mean more insecurity. Other such dogmas also need challenging.

Nuclear weapons did NOT give us 40 years of peace. The nuclear cold war simply transferred superpower wars out to smaller countries where millions lost their lives.

Nuclear weapons were NOT the only way to end the war with Japan, as Churchill and others admitted at the time. Their use

then had much more to do with keeping the Soviets out of the Pacific theatre.

Nuclear weapons are NOT just there to stop other countries from using nuclear weapons on us as many propagandists claim. Nuclear weapons are thought of by our Government as usable weapons of war. That is exactly why this country has always refused a 'No First Use' agreement.

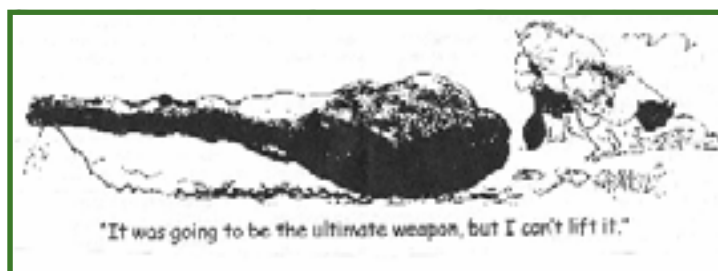
Lastly there is the dogma of the cynics. There is no way, they say, that, having been invented, nuclear weapons can ever be eliminated. WHY NOT? The world has already gone some way towards the elimination of landmines, and chemical and biological weapons. The difficulty is that many in power are so devoted to their nuclear weaponry that proposals about elimination go right off their imagination scale.

But a draft abolition treaty already exists. A priority call for 2010 must be that serious nuclear weapon abolition negotiations, a legal obligation, should start now and be brought to a conclusion however long that takes. It is NOT impossible. What is lacking is the will.

A final dogma is that, in the hands of nice sensible countries like our own, that they are safe. NOT TRUE. There is nothing safe about instruments of such destructive power which depend on human reactions, computers of all sorts and electrical and mechanical constructions of incredible complexity.

There are encouraging signs that old dogmas may be on their way out. We are being forced, by changes in the world in which we live, global warming for instance, to think outside the little boxes of our own national states. Nuclear weapons represent the ultimate lunacy and immorality of the old war system. That is why MAW should have a great deal to say and do, in partnership with others, on the Trident issue.

Bruce Kent



Guernica 1937

Images of War

In his speech on HMS Albion in January, Tony Blair implied that the media, with their publishing of details of conflicts, are responsible for the anti-war feelings of the public. *'These sometimes gruesome images are the unmediated reality of war.....Public opinion will be divided, feel that the cost is too great, the campaign too long, and be unnerved by the absence of 'victory' in the normal way they would reckon it. that it's really all 'our', that is the West's fault.'*

Well, well. From now on this newsletter will regularly publish some of the gruesome images of war.



Japan 1945



The Basra Road 1991

Post-Conflict Truth and Justice in Peru

The stunning centrepiece of an intricately-worked quilt was a moving focus throughout the Peru event jointly organised by MAW and the Peru Support Group in March at St Ethelburga's, London. The quilt featured moving scenes of life before, during and after the 1980 – 2000 conflict between Peruvian state forces and the Maoist group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

Around 50 of us enjoyed an evening of music, art, reflection, and discussion based on the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), into the Peruvian conflict.



Roberta Bacic talking about the Quilt

In vivid colours, 3 by 2 metres in size, and produced by women from the Ayacucho region of Peru, the quilt was first exhibited in May 2002 to the TRC. Roberta Bacic, Chilean Human Rights lecturer, researcher and activist, explained the meaning and production of the quilt. Women from all 'sides' worked through long and difficult memories and experiences to reach expression of their common suffering through making individual contributions to the quilt. Tiny figures and scenes, minutely executed, were added to the whole, resulting in a profoundly personal yet universal portrayal of how violence may affect our lives.

Sophie Patten of the Peruvian Support Group introduced the evening and provided some information about the Group, which is based in the UK to raise awareness of the ongoing situation in Peru and support those working for peace and progress.

As vice chair of MAW, I introduced our organisation, our aims and objectives and how these are clearly linked with the work of TRC's, which

help to eliminate the causes of wars, and tackle the roots of conflict. "Each war contains the seeds of the next one." Unless the (psychological) wounds of war are cleaned and carefully tended, they inflame in due course and new violence erupts. Although we more readily imagine physical destruction in association with war, it is the psychological destruction whose damage goes deepest, lasts longest, and which we tend to ignore.

John Crabtree of the Latin America Centre, St Anthony's College, Oxford, gave a summary of how the TRC was undertaken, and said that though the process itself was of enormous value, sadly that its recommendations were not being sufficiently implemented or recognised by the current Peruvian administration.

The Andean music group Sangre Andina played music from the Peruvian tradition, complemented with songs in the British tradition by Tony Kempster and Sue Gilmurray. Sue wrote a song specially for the event, called Path to Peace.

Some of the artwork by Peruvian painter Fernando Cari was on display, and he spoke briefly of his work through an interpreter.

Our thanks to St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace for their generous co-operation and support.

Christine Titmus



Sangre Andina

The Oxfordshire Peace Tent will be part of the Devizes Arts Festival from 11th to 22nd June. This has been arranged by the Devizes Peace Group who are exhibiting the tent in S. Andrew's Church, Long Street, from 11am to 4pm each day. There will also be a textile Tree of Life to which visitors can add their own fabric leaves with peace messages. The tent is made up of panels of different textile techniques sewn by women of many different cultures. It's a riot of colour. See more at: www.textilesforpeace.co.uk



Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda

is celebrating its 27th Anniversary
on
Sunday 17 June
10.30am-3.30 pm

The day will include a Buddhist ceremony, multi-faith peace prayers, various speakers, including Bruce Kent, focussing on Faslane 365, and a multi-cultural celebration.

Lunch will be provided for everyone.

Peace Pagoda, Willen Lake, Milton Keynes, MK15 0BA

The Ammerdown Centre

near Bath is the venue for some interesting lectures and workshops on peace and conflict resolution.

For instance:

4 June - Conviction and Conflict with Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali

15 June - Women and Peacemaking

29 June - Asylum and Migration
13-15 July - Learning To Listen Effectively.

21 Sept - Celebrating the International Day of Peace

Contact the Ammerdown Conference and Retreat Centre, Radstock, Bath BA3 5SW

01761 433709

www.ammerdown.org or
centre@ammerdown.org

WAR & THE ENVIRONMENT

Many peace campaigners support agencies that focus on aid and poverty reduction and/or environmental issues. It is a pity that the agencies themselves do not connect up more closely with the peace movement. We need to get this message across:

- 1) Military activity and war cause poverty, environmental damage and, with high carbon emissions, add to global warming.
- 2) Global warming is already causing resource shortages. These are set to increase and we could be facing *serious* resource wars. We urgently need to find ways of resolving conflicts without resorting to war.
- 3) We can survive global warming. We will not survive global war.

Below is the first in a series of features looking at the environmental reasons for abolishing war

DESIGN AGAINST NATURE



Humans can be very clever in the way they manipulate materials and energy to destroy each other. And they often do not hesitate to use their manipulative talents to damage and destroy the natural and semi-natural environment as a method of harming each other.

A well-documented example of damaging military activity that stands out above the rest is the use of Agent Orange by the USA in the Viet Nam War (c.1961-1975). Agent Orange (AO) was a defoliant designed to destroy the forest canopy of Viet Nam, to make the Viet Cong more visible and more vulnerable to attack. AO was a mix of two phenoxy herbicides, but this mixture produced an unintended by-product: dioxin. Dioxin is possibly the most carcinogenic substance ever invented.

About 72 million litres of AO was sprayed on Viet Nam (as if the carpet bombing was not enough). The area sprayed contained at least 3 million people.

There were other designs against nature in the Viet Nam War; indeed this war seems to have been used as a real, live test-bed for environmental weapons.

The USA also used Agents Blue, Pink, Green, White and Purple, each colour denoting a different kind of poison. Agent Blue (AB), for example, was arsenic based and designed to destroy rice crops and rice stores, after other methods had failed. The intention was to cut food supplies to the Viet Cong. This would also inevitably cut off food supplies to the civilian population in Viet Nam.

This did not stop the USA from using it.

The USA also invented giant armoured tractors, which could destroy trees of any size. About 2% of the land area of Vietnam was laid bare by these tractors during the course of the war. Military analysts at the time described these machines as 'exciting' and 'striking'. A crime against nature might be a more apt description. This war was a long time ago, does it have relevance today? Yes, plenty.

There were various kinds of latent and knock-on consequences:

- The Viet Nam government estimates 800,000 people in Viet Nam today suffer serious health problems as a result of spraying toxic substances over 30 years ago. Some of these victims are younger generations, the grandchildren of those around at the time of the war.
- Mangrove swamps – very rich botanically, but very fragile – have not recovered from war damage, a prediction made as long back as 1976. These (coastal) mangroves, which are bio-diversity rich, are also a source of natural food for people; shrimp, crab, fish help provide livelihoods. A high proportion of people in Viet

Nam live on the coasts and estuaries where the mangroves proliferate.

- The forest area of Viet Nam was severely reduced during the war, through bombing and spraying. Soil erosion occurred where the armoured tractors had left bare soil. The forest has continued to decline under the pressure of industrialised agriculture. Marginalised rural people have to cut trees for firewood and building material. Viet Nam used to provide a fifth of the world's coffee. Now droughts threaten coffee crops. The National Coffee Research Institute says the felling of moisture-storing trees causes the droughts. And forests are now being destroyed for...wait for it... golf courses. Yes, golf courses, which themselves are environmentally damaging and water-hungry.

Did the 'exciting', 'striking' technology lead to the USA 'winning' the war? No. Not even to a pyrrhic victory. It was a pyrrhic defeat. A defeat not worth the cost in terms of lost human lives, money that could have been more constructively used, and the contemptible destruction of natural environment and food crops. Did the USA learn anything from this? Yes. But it did not learn to come to terms with another nation's needs, hopes, and expectations, in the form of dialogue and mutual respect.

The USA confirmed a more subtle way of controlling people for its own benefit, through large corporations such as Du Pont and Monsanto. Corporate greed - the new ideology. Monsanto (one of the companies that made AO and AB) have an operation in Ho Chi Minh City. They supply industrial rice; are at the forefront of genetically modified rice. And they still make the same herbicides. Genetically modified plants – surely the ultimate design against nature.

Brian Heale



Aerial Spraying in Viet Nam

Two interesting nuggets of information came up in Clive Barrett's talk at the Peace History Conference -

First, using a painting of the 14th century artist Simone Martini as an illustration, he spoke about S Martin of Tours who lived in the 4th century. He is most famous for giving his cloak to a beggar. He became a Christian whilst serving in the Roman Army. While he was engaged in what he saw as 'policing duties' he had no difficulty combining his religion and his job. But when asked to take part in a battle he said 'Pugnam mihi non licit' - 'It is not lawful for me to fight'. His refusal was not down to cowardice, as he offered to go to the enemy unarmed. It was the story of Martin's refusal to fight that Simone Martini depicted in his fresco in Assisi, the oldest representation of pacifism that Clive had come across. Now turn back to page 5 and join up the dots.

Clive also produced a picture of a WWI grave in the Tyne Cott military cemetery for some of those who died in the Battle of the Somme. The inscription reads:

**Sacrificed To The Fallacy
That War Can End War.**

A government above the law is a menace to be defeated - Lord Scarman

A Peace Group Near You

The Hereford Peace Council & Millichap Peace Fund

The Peace Council was established in the 1980's, at a time when the cold war and nuclear weapons were a constantly underlying threat to peace. It meets monthly in the Friends Meeting House, King Street, Hereford. Efforts in recent years have been dedicated to card and letter writing in response to crises such as Iraq and Iran, to initiatives from CND and CAAT, and to holding vigils and demonstrations. For the last 2 years it has held a very successful Hiroshima exhibition of posters provided by the Japanese War Museum, persuading a number of people to rethink about nuclear weapons.

Allied with the Peace Council is the Millichap Peace Fund. This was established by the family of Rae and Harley Millichap, founder members of the Peace Council, who worked hard to raise local awareness of peace issues. They saw peace as a positive state, not merely an absence of war, and they worked for reconciliation wherever possible. The Fund has largely been used to invite high-profile speakers to address (admission free) public meetings. These have become well-respected events in the local calendar, usually attracting audiences of 200-300; 600 in the case of Mark Tully in Hereford Cathedral. This May they had a new venture – Voices Against War, an evening of poetry and music with Adrian Mitchell and Gareth Williams.

Contact: John Williams (Chair), 11 Gosmore Road, Clehonger HR2 9SN Tel: 01981 250069

If you would like your local peace group to be featured in the newsletter, then send the editor some details – when the group formed and why, what sort of events/campaigning it is involved in, how often it meets, a contact address or number so that newcomers to the area can get in touch, plus any other interesting information. (Editor's contact details on back page)

Erskine Childers Memorial Lecture

12 June 7pm.

Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International will speak on 'How people can influence the UN on Human Rights'.

Chair: Rt. Hon. Lord (Peter) Archer Q.C.

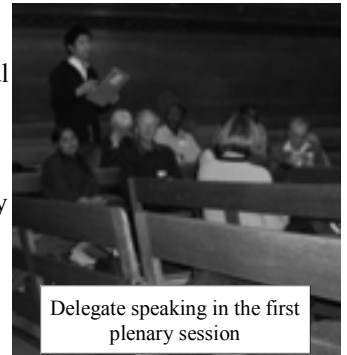
Admission free, all welcome

Details: 020-8399-2547 or info@action-for-un-renewal.org.uk

Human Rights – a Pathway to Peace

This year's Peace Education Network conference in March focusing on teaching human rights to promote the values of peace was held in Birmingham. It was well attended, being fully booked some time in advance and the diversity of those attending was hugely encouraging.

I attended an enlightening but disturbing workshop with Stuart Parkinson of Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR). He discussed the scale of military involvement in the education system (particularly at secondary level and above,) through the provision of classroom-ready, National Curriculum linked lesson packs for science and technology. With schools and teachers being ever more pressed for time and resources, one can hardly be surprised at the success of these schemes, but wouldn't it be wonderful if organisations such as SGR had the funds and manpower to provide their own resources to schools? Two particular points stuck in my mind as hopeful angles to push against. The first was that the skewing of the science lessons to "things that go fast and bang", is off-putting to girls who prefer to study subjects such as medicine, biology and environmental science; the second point follows from this – namely that with the bias being set towards the military-industrial complex, students are less likely to follow careers outside this field. And according to the DTI's own recent figures there are now a third more jobs in environmental research and development than in military R&D. An encouraging thought.



Delegate speaking in the first plenary session

The highlight of the afternoon was Laura Morris from Amnesty who took us through Terrorism, Security and Human Rights suitable for teaching KS4 Citizenship. We explored some of the activities for students and many thanks to Laura and Amnesty for providing generous quantities of these packs and other resources for us all to take away and use. Thanks also to all those who made another inspiring PEN conference happen. We're looking forward to the next.

Luci Carolan (MAW Representative on PEN)

MAW TO BUY

MAW TO BUY	BOOKLETS	The Hague Appeal '99. 50 Steps on the Way to the Abolition of War	£1.50
		The Final Surrender -Time to Abolish war. Quotations from around the world.	50p
		A World Without War - Professor Rotblat's Imperial War Museum speech, 2002	30p
		A Peace Trail Through London - places associated with peace-making , by Valerie Flessati	50p
		The Life of Bertha von Suttner - the first woman to win the Nobel Peace prize	£2.00
	POSTCARDS	'I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask - 'Mother, what was war?'	15p
		Girl with flower facing soldiers with bayonets	15p
		MAW's banner in full colour "War=Poverty=War"	15p
	A4 CARD	The Preamble to the UN Charter	15p
	DVD(14 mins)	War No More - with teacher's booklet (Still some videos available £8*)	£10.00
	MAW CD	Sing the Music of Healing	£8.00
	BOOKS	War No More (paperback) Rotblat/Hinde	£11.00
		Warfare or Welfare - Colin Archer IPB Sec. General	£5.00
BADGES Metal	Red with a 'No Entry' sign across War	Large (2") 40p Small (1") 15p	
MAW PUBLICITY	Information leaflets and A3 posters	Free	
POSTAGE	Please add 20% to the total cost of order. Postage is free for orders of £20 and over		
CHEQUES	Please make cheques payable to MAW		

Please send order to: MAW ORDERS, 1 Thesiger Rd. Abingdon Oxon OX14 2DY

This Letter Was Handed in to MAW at the Peace History Conference

I had hoped to attend the Peace History Conference at the Imperial War Museum, but sadly I am suffering from bad health. I particularly wanted to see the film about the Danish Resistance Movement, *A Force More Powerful*, as I was much involved with this period. I have therefore decided to contribute the following:

In April 1940, as a schoolgirl, I saw German aeroplanes coming in over Copenhagen. At that stage I thought that war was the only means to stop Hitler and his followers.

During the next 5 years of the Nazi occupation, my boyfriend and many of our friends were involved in the Resistance Movement. By the time the Germans capitulated in May 1945, many young Freedom Fighters had died. Many had been tortured in the Gestapo Headquarters, Dagmar Hus, others, badly wounded escaped to Sweden. One of them stayed for 3 days at my parents' flat until he too could get to Sweden. I did not see him until 1945 when he and all the other Freedom Fighters, as well as many of my old school friends who happened to be of Jewish extraction, came back to Denmark with the Danish Brigade which had been trained in Sweden to help when the Germans capitulated.

Meanwhile, many things had happened. As far as I am concerned, the most significant one that I experienced was in September 1944 during an air raid in Copenhagen, when I sought shelter in a basement café. I was there with 5 or 6 fellow

countrymen when a German soldier rushed down the stairs. We turned our backs on him but then we heard this young man sobbing violently. That was too much for anybody to ignore, so one of us walked over to him and said in their best school German "Was ist los mit ihnen?" To our amazement the young German answered in Danish, "I am a descendent of a Danish family who lived in Flensburg for generations, and it was only because the borders were changed after Bismarck had won the battle of Slesvig Holstein in 1864 that I am a German citizen and was enrolled in the army. I hate the Nazis. Look, you do not know what they're doing to you now. They are taking the whole of your police force and sending them to German concentration camps." And afterwards we saw big lorries full of our Danish police with their arms in the air while German soldiers pointed machine guns at them. Not until 1945 did we have 80% of our Danish police back (20% perished), as the Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte had persuaded the Gestapo that they might as well release the police because the war was nearly over.

This incident that I have described I soon realised was a very important one to me and I have never forgotten it.

I have often wondered what happened to that young soldier and how many other young men suffered a similar fate. This I think contributes to the strong feelings I share with those who are thoroughly against war. At this stage of my life I feel that I sanction the saying "Nobody wins a war", and I am against all wars.

Mrs Jytte Hardisty



We are pleased to announce that a new book has been published on the life of the late Joseph Rotblat, MAW's founding president. Professor Robert Hinde, our current president, was one of the editors.

The book is dedicated to the life of this unique scientist and humanist. It contains seven central articles on his biography, the impact of his work on science and peace and the Pugwash organisation, followed by over 30 commentaries written by such eminent authors as Martin Rees, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jack Steinberger, Mohamed ELBaradei, Paul J. Crutzen and Mairead Corrigan Maguire.

'If ever these evils (nuclear weapons) are eradicated his name should stand very high indeed among the heroes.' Bertrand Russell.

'He left a legacy of inspiration and courage badly needed in today's world.' Kofi Annan

And did you know that as part of the Guardian Hay Festival there is a Joseph Rotblat Memorial Lecture?

2 years ago the WMD Awareness Programme had arranged a debate between Professor Rotblat and Robert McNamara, but the professor was ill, and Professor Robert Hinde took his place. The next year the director, Peter Florence, suggested holding an annual Joseph Rotblat Memorial Lecture. The first was by the Astronomer Royal Martin Rees. This year on June 2nd David Attenborough will give the lecture. Titled 'Watching the Wild', it will be introduced by Robert Hinde and chaired by Jon Snow.

Please send me further information

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

TOWN

COUNTY POST CODE

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Yearly rates £15 Individual £5 Unwaged £20 Household (2 persons)

£25 Group/organisation £100 Life membership

Please make cheque payable to MAW and send to

Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Rd., LONDON N4 1EJ

Or join online: - www.abolishwar.org.uk

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN MAW!

Our aim: to create a world where war is no longer seen as a way to solve a problem; where it has ceased to be an option; where conflict resolution means resolution, not more conflict. We have the tools, the skills and the laws that we need. We also need you. We work through education and dialogue, both nationally and in our own local communities; ordinary people taking action to realise our goal -

THE ABOLITION OF WAR.

Events Diary

LONDON Walk in Peace. first Sunday of every month. 020 8755 0353 or beatricemillar@freeuk.com

29-30 May FASLANE The Footprints For Peace group will blockade Faslane. footprintsforpeace@faslane365.org

2 June HAY-on-WYE Guardian Hay Festival in conjunction with the WMD Awareness Programme, Joseph Rotblat Memorial Lecture given by David Attenborough. WMD Awareness Programme, 63A Gt. Russell Street, London, WC1B 3BJ 020 7405 6661 info@comeclean.org.uk

2 June LONDON Your Voice Against Poverty rally. www.yourvoiceagainstpoverity.org.uk

2 – 10 June COUNTRYWIDE Stop the Arms Trade Week. CAAT, 020 7281 0297, www.caat.org.uk

4 June WORLDWIDE. International Day for Children as victims of war, www.unicef.org

6-8 June GERMANY G8 Summit, Heiligendamm, Germany

9 June LONDON UNGA-Link AGM 2:00-5:00, Conway Hall in Red Lion Square. info@ungalink.org.uk

9 June LONDON ENOUGH! Demonstration against 40 years of Occupation in Palestine www.enoughoccupation.org

12 June LONDON Erskine Childers Memorial Lecture. See advert on page 10

12 – 13 June FASLANE Manchester Faslane365 - help blockade the Trident submarine base. Tel: Jacqui 0161 273 8283

16 June LONDON 22nd Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park 2pm. Info: 020 7228 9620..

17 June MILTON KEYNES 27th Anniversary at the Peace Pagoda. See advert on page 8

20 June LONDON Musicians Against Nuclear Arms Concert for Peace. See advert on page 6

21 June WORLDWIDE World Refugee Day.

24 June GLASTONBURY WMD Awareness Programme hosts Get Up Stand Up at Glastonbury. Music, comedy and politics show with Tony Benn, Mark Thomas and others. WMD Awareness Programme Tel: 020 7405 6661, info@comeclean.org.uk

4 July MENWITH HILL Annual 'Independence FROM America' day. Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB), 9 Swarcliffe Road, Harrogate, HG1 4QZ. Tel: 01423 884076 office@caabuk.plus.com

6-7 July NORWICH Learning for a Changing World: Co-operative Perspectives. Info: East of England Co-operative Society Ltd 01473 280316 education@eastofengland.coop

14-15 July FASLANE Merseyside group blockade. NVDA training, transport etc contact mcnd@care4free.net or 0151 702 6974.

18 July-22 July NORFOLK 2007 Earth First! Summer Gathering. www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk

20-22 July SWANWICK 29th Annual Justice & Peace Conference, Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Info: NJPN 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX Tel: 020 7901 4864 www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

1-5 August SOMERSET The Big Green Gathering. Fernhill Farm, Compton Martin, Somerset. www.big-green-gathering.com

4 August LONDON Musical Protest Against the DSEi arms fair. Outside the Western Entrance, ExCel Centre, Custom House, London SE 16, 2pm - 4:30pm. Contact CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ, 020 7281 0297. www.caat.org.uk

6 August WORLDWIDE Hiroshima Day..

9 August WORLDWIDE Nagasaki Day.

14-21 August (to be confirmed) Camp for Climate Action 2007. Contact www.climatecamp.org.uk

11-14 September LONDON DSEi Arms Fair. 020 7281 0297 www.caat.org.uk

21 September WORLDWIDE International Day of Peace

21 September BROMLEY Peace One Day event with Bromley Peace Council. Info: Ann Garrett on 020 8460 1295.

23 September LONDON Children's Mystery Walk. www.abolishwar.org.uk

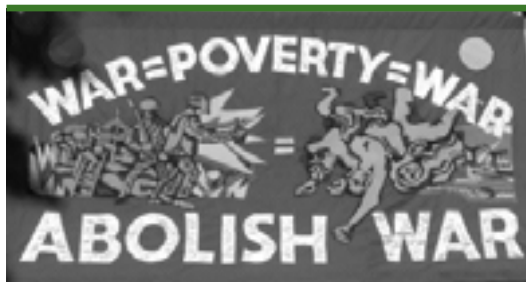
12 October LONDON Musicians Against Nuclear Arms Concert for Peace with the MANA Chamber Orchestra conducted by Diego Masson. Contact MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. www.mana.org.uk

13-14 October LONDON CND Annual Conference. City Hall. 020 7700 2393, www.cnduk.org

21-28 October EVERYWHERE One World Week. Theme: 'All Together Now'. www.oneworldweek.org

24 October WORLDWIDE United Nations Day.

24-30 October Disarmament Week.



The MAW banner is available for your events if you collect it from London. Phone MAW to arrange.

Spread the word, raise funds, increase our membership

The summer is upon us - the season of fairs, fêtes and festivals - have you considered having a stall for MAW? We have a good selection of campaign materials - see p. 10
Coming soon - mugs with a MAW message

MAW NEWS PLEASE!

You want to read about events that are not all London-based. We want to hear from members around the country, and we want your actions to inspire others. So if you have organised events/actions, or are planning some, and would like to have them reported in the newsletter, then send the details to the editor: - Lesley Docksey, 1 Court Farm Cottages, Buckland Newton, Dorset DT2 7BT E-mail: Lesley.Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk